

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the herein contained amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the time and courtesy extended to representatives for Applicant, Bill Pieprz and John Mazzola, during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on February 21, 2006. During the conversation, Mr. Pieprz informed the Examiner of Applicants desire to make minor changes to claims 1, 10, and 13 (as detailed below). As a result of the telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated his willingness to allow the amendments discussed below and that the amendments were clearly supported in the specification.

By this amendment, claims 1, 10, and 13 have been amended for clarification. Specifically, an equation in claims 1, 10, and 13 has been amended to render the claims even more consistent with the specification and drawings. That is, in claims 1, 10, and 13, " $(a-c)\tan\theta_1 = r_2$ " has been changed to $-(a-c)\tan\theta_2 = r_2$. As discussed in the specification and as one can clearly observe from Figure 10 of the present application, r_2 represents the radius of the incident end face of the fiber-optic light guide and θ_2 represents the angle of incidence of light rays which emerge from the positive lens to be incident on the end face of the fiber-optic light guide. Accordingly, the trigonometric relationship with respect to r_2 and θ_2 as shown in Figure 10 must be $\tan \theta_2 = (r_2/(a-c))$, or by rearrangement, $(a-c)\tan\theta_2 = r_2$. Applicant also notes that θ_1 is shown in Figure 9 as the exit angle of the light rays emitted from white LED 27. Obviously, from Figure 9 one can clearly observe that $\tan \theta_1$ could not be $(r_2/(a-c))$, as $(r_2/(a-c))$

does not represent the opposite side divided by the adjacent side with respect to θ_1 .

Thus, support for such amendment may be found not only in Figures 9 and 10 of the present application, but in the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No.2002-338965, which was expressly incorporated herein by reference in its entirety when the instant application was filed.

By this amendment, claim 10 also has been amended to delete ", said white LED being movable between a retracted position where said white LED is spaced from a position at which said white LED faces said incident end face of said fiber-optic light guide, and an operating position where said white LED faces said incident end face of said fiber-optic light guide," In this regard, it is noted that a substantially identical limitation is previously recited in claim 10 in the second wherein clause. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 10 to avoid any possible redundancy.

Applicants also note that they have incorporated the Examiner's Amendment, that was made in the Notice of Allowance mailed on February 6, 2006, into the present listing of claims, but have not included any markings to show the changes made by the Examiner's Amendment.

Additionally, Applicant has provided three replacement paragraphs which correspond to the equation that was amended (as discussed above) in claims 1, 10 and 13. Applicant notes that the replacement paragraphs introduce no prohibited new matter and merely renders the portions of specification even more consistent with the drawings and with the remainder of the specification as noted above. Further, support

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for the replacement paragraphs may be found in the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No.2002-338965, which was expressly incorporated herein by reference in its entirety when the instant application was filed.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicant submits that the entry of the herein contained amendment is appropriate to ensure clarity of the specification and claim language and accordingly, respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendment contained therein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.312.

The changes introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, this amendment merely enhances, strengthens and reinforces the patentability of claims previously indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment is proper for entry at the present time.

The above amendment further does not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention and no new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P., the present amendment should be considered and its entry should be recommended by the Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter

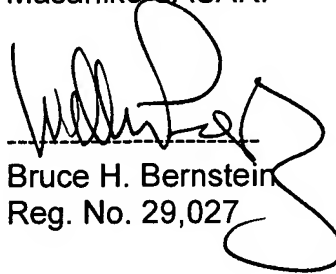
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the present amendment to the claims. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Masahiko SASAKI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Pieprz', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

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